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PATENT
Attorney Docket No. SMT-004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RECEIVED

APPLICANTS: Finn et al. GROUP NO.: 3729
APPLICATION NO.: 09/117,970 EXAMINER: Arbes, Carl J.
§ 371 DATE: August 7, 1998 PATENT NO.: 6,233,818
ISSUE DATE: May 22, 2001
TITLE: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR BONDING A WIRE CONDUCTOR

OCT 03 2008

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

Mail Stop M Correspondence
Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PAYMENT OF DEFICIENCY UNDER 37 CFR § 1.28(c) AND
NOTIFICATION REGARDING CHANGE IN STATUS

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.27(g)(2) and § 1.28(c), this is a notification of a change in status and a request to excuse the erroneous payment of the first maintenance fee for U.S. Patent 6,233,818 (the '818 Patent) based on the establishment of its owner in good faith as a small entity. Small entity status is no longer claimed with respect to the '818 Patent as of December 22, 2004.

The first maintenance fee for the '818 Patent that was due by November 23, 2004 was paid with a surcharge for late payment to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on December 22, 2004, but at the small entity amount of \$515 (\$450 + \$65). Subsequently, on April 3, 2007, the owner declared that it was no longer entitled to small entity status with respect to the '818 Patent. The second maintenance fee for the '818 Patent that was due by November 25, 2008 was timely and correctly paid on May 22, 2008 to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office at the appropriate large entity amount of \$2,360.

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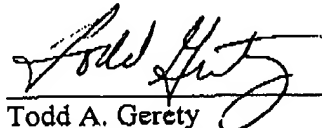
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The patent owner hereby provides notice under 37 CFR § 1.28(c) and MPEP § 509.03 that it has been recently discovered that its status as a small entity with respect to the '818 Patent, which was established in good faith at the time of payment of the first maintenance fee, is in error and that the first maintenance fee described above for the '818 Patent was therefore erroneously paid as a small entity.

Accordingly, pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.28(c)(2), the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct the deficiency owed for this previous fee erroneously paid as a small entity from Deposit Account 50-3081. A Fee Transmittal Form and copy of the Fee Transmittal Form is included with the present mailing. By payment of this deficiency, notification is provided of loss of entitlement to small entity status as of December 22, 2004 under 37 CFR § 1.27(g)(2), pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.28(d). The undersigned believes the total amount presently owed for the deficiency of the first maintenance fee is \$545 (\$1060-515). The fee in the amount of \$1060 includes current fee to date of \$930 for the first maintenance fee due at 3.5 years plus the current surcharge to date of \$130 for late payment of the first maintenance fee within six (6) months.

The undersigned believes no additional fees are due upon submission of this paper. However if any additional fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct them from Deposit Account No. 50-3081.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence, and any document(s) referred to as enclosed herein, are being faxed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 at Facsimile No. (571) 273-6500 on this 26th day of September, 2008.


Kim LaRocca

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Submitted herewith are: Transmittal Form (1 sheet); Fee Transmittal (original and one copy (two sheets total)); Payment of Deficiency Under 37 CFR § 1.28(c) and Notification Regarding Change in Status (2 sheets total).